REMARKS

Claims 5-8 and 10-18 are pending in the application.

Summary of an Exemplary Embodiment of the Invention

As shown in Fig. 1a, a communication network may have a layered architecture.
Each layer implements one or more protocols for service at that layer. Messages
transmitted through the layers of such a network are arranged as nested messages. The
message at a layer, for example, k is referred to as the layer k message, and includes the
message of the preceding layers.

In an embodiment of the invention, each layer is represented by a context. As
stated on page 8, lines 5-6 of the originally filed specification, the context includes values
and methods particular to its corresponding layer. Each layer message includes a
message body address, also referred to as a pointer, which points to the context of the
next higher layer (page 8, lines 9-11).

When processing layer messages to do encoding, each layer sets the appropriate
field values of the layer message and passes the address of its context to the next lower
layer. The next lower layer will set the message body address of that layer's layer
message to the address for the previous layers' context. This links the contexts of the
layers together within the layer messages, and the layer messages are then ready for
encoding.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner rejects the claims under Section 112, first and second paragraphs.
The claims have been amended and replaced such that the claims accurately read on the

embodiments described in the specification such as outlined in the summary provided above. In view this, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 112, rejections.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moberg. Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

Referring to Col 5, lines 20-36 of Moberg cited by the Examiner, Moberg discloses a method of encapsulating and decapsulating messages. An incoming packet 20A contains a message 22 which is encapsulated with an HTTP header 24. The HTTP header 24 is then encapsulated with a TCP header 26. The TCP header 26 is then encapsulated in an ethernet frame, which includes an Ethernet header 30. A router 15A then reformats and readdresses the packet by stripping off the ethernet header 30, also referred to as decapsulating the frame. The router 15A then reads the IP header 28 to obtain a destination address for the packet.

Col. 5, lines 34-42 also discusses that the router 15A "dynamically chains the elements together," but the elements being referred to are not layer messages. Instead, the elements chained together are functions (See Col. 5, lines 34-36).

The Examiner contends that each of the protocol layers in Moberg are combined into a message, and each of the protocol layers will have an associated address. (i.e., IP address for the IP layer, TCP port number address, HTTP address, etc.). This is clearly not the same as "linking a plurality of layer messages by including an address of a context for a previous communication network layer in layer message of a subsequent

communication network layer" as recited in claim 16, where each context is "associated with a communication network layer" and provides "variables and methods for the associated communication network layer".

Claim 15 includes similar limitation to those of claim 16; and therefore, is allowable at least for the reasons stated above in reference to claim 16.

The remaining claims are dependent on claim 16, and are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 16 as well as on their own merits.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.
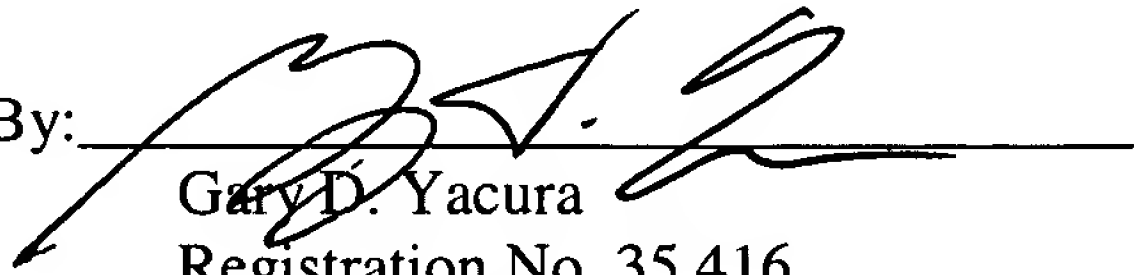
CONCLUSION

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Gary Yacura at (703) 668-8023 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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